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Director of Central Intelligence

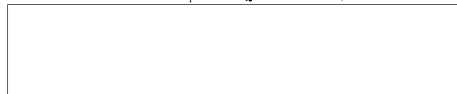
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Monday, 29 March 1993

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SOUTH AFRICA: Reactions to Nuclear Disclosure

Although many nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency have reacted favorably to South Africa's disclosures of its past nuclear weapons program, there are concerns about the completeness of Pretoria's declaration of nuclear holdings and about its past cooperation with other countries on nuclear technology.

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Australia has called Pretoria's candor about its weapons program exemplary; Tokyo said it was surprised but encouraged Pretoria's continued commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The IAEA has begun talks in Pretoria on inspecting nuclear-weapons-related facilities.

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Possible discrepancies in Pretoria's accounting to the IAEA, however, are raising concerns that South Africa may be trying to preserve a clandestine nuclear capability. Moreover, the ANC says it doubts that all bomb-grade uranium has been eliminated and has called on Pretoria to stop the destruction of weapons-related documents.

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Comment: Pretoria's disclosure of its nuclear weapons program and its invitation to the IAEA are likely to help its international standing. The OAU may invite it to send an observer when its denuclearization committee meets in April. In addition, South Africa undoubtedly hopes the disclosure will improve its access to commercial Western nuclear technology and to scientific exchanges, particularly with the US and with EC members.

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Although Pretoria was required to declare all material that was in the country when it signed the NPT, it may not have listed all it ever produced.

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